Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

Kosharki (Sheep folds). This was a game which had been played extensively a generation ago, but its use was dying out in the village. The children would build miniature sheep folds, houses, and fences out of rocks. This game corresponded after a fashion to our building with blocks.

The outstanding characteristic of all these games was that they required little equipment and few participants. At home, the play groups were inevitably restricted to the family and nearest neighbors, often relatives. At school, children could choose relatives and other children in the same grade. Play groups in the fields were formed on the basis of family ownership of land and common pasture. These latter groups often gathered in the village and went to the fields together, the youngsters carrying loaves of bread, baked peppers, and fresh tomatoes. Even in play, the family was important, for every type of play group almost automatically included relatives. As was previously pointed out, there was less quarreling among the children who were related. I often heard: "You shouldn't hit him; he's your relative."

The new types of play were still limited. The radio, comic papers, and movies were almost unknown to the village child, just as they were to the average adult. Only twenty-five newspapers reached the village daily, and these had few comic strips. Magazines and books were a rarity. Sofia bookshops had some exquisite children's books, but I never saw one in the village. Sometimes when I came into a village home on a winter evening, I would see an unforgettable picture. Near the fire the father sat quietly, elbows on knees, the mother was spinning near the one dim electric bulb, and in the center, crouched at the low table, a boy, nine or ten years old, was laboriously reading some fragment of a periodical to his parents. Their pride and pleasure was unspoken but obvious.

There was one radio in the village, and the children were of course conscious of it as it blared incessantly in Renaissance Square, but it was not a part of their life, any more than the movies or trains. Only 45 per cent of the total population, including babies, had ever attended a movie, and less than 40 per cent had ever been on a train.

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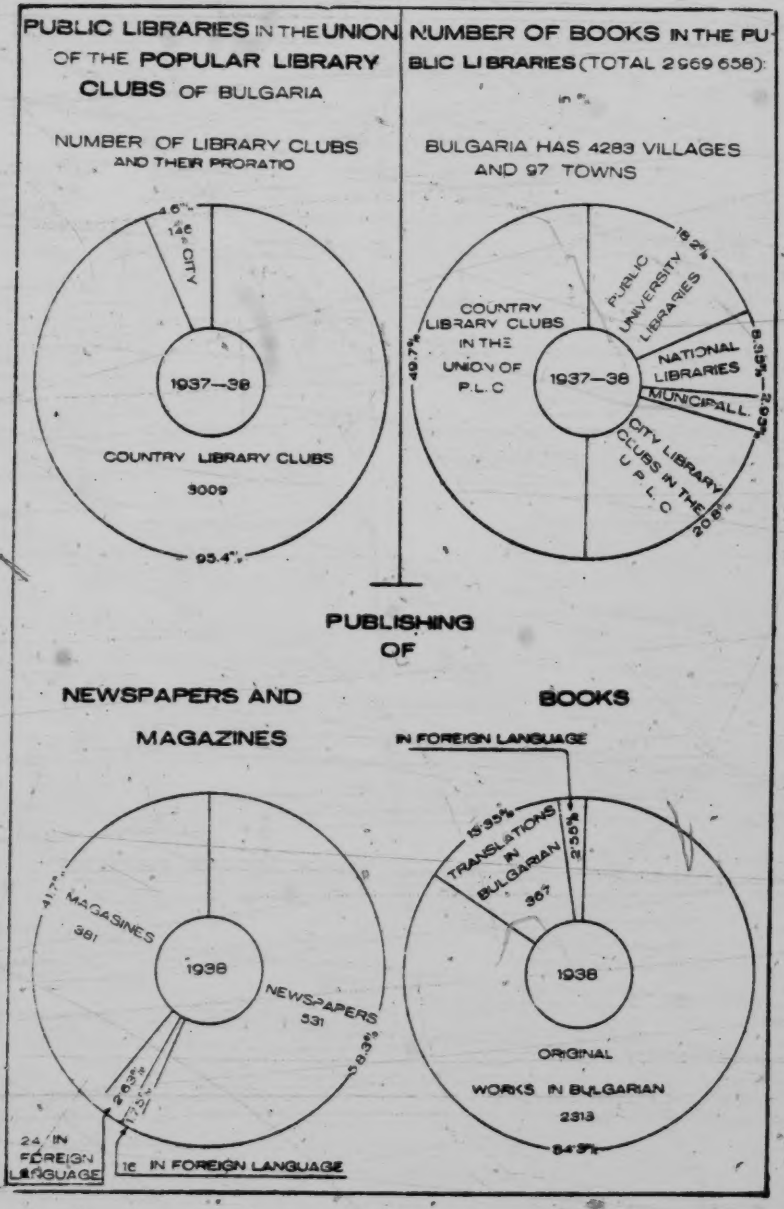

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Fig. 24.

poetry approaches to some extent the perfection and emotional intensity of that of Slaveikov.

Another estimate of the literary activities of the Bulgarians may be formed by the number and serious character of the books that are being published. Thus in 1931, a total of 2222 different books was printed, of which 1782 were original productions, and 229 translations, some 201 of the former being in languages other than Bulgarian. The bulk of the works published dealt with scientific subjects. Thus 591 books were on economics, sociology and politics, 349 on culture and pedagogy, 301 on literature, 262 on applied sciences, 175 on medicine, 131 on religion, 97 on law, 84 on history, 44 on art, and 39 on geography and ethnography.

The number of newspapers which appeared in 1931 was stated to be 571, and the number of periodicals 352 of which 26 appeared in foreign languages.[1] The largest newspaper circulation was that of the *Utro*, a morning newspaper, which reached daily 60,000 copies, while that of its rival, and the more serious, *Zora*, attained 40,000. The *Mir*, under its able editor, Peev-Platskov, a graduate of Robert College, and an accomplished English scholar, is admittedly the leading newspaper with a daily sale of 20,000 copies. From among the periodicals the *Bulgarski Voin* had the largect number of subscribers, namely 41,300 (mainly reserve officers), while other excellent reviews, such as the *Philosophski Pregled*, and the *Journal of the Economic Association* boasted 3000 and 1400 subscribers respectively.

[1] Among these is the „Bulgarian-British Review," a monthly periodical published in English chiefly aiming at promoting cultural and economic intercourse with Anglo-Saxon countries. This review offers to its American and English readers an accurate survey of Bulgarian life, and constitutes a much appreciated means of approach between the English-speaking communities and the Bulgarian people.